GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:66
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2016
Memorial on Morarji Desai
Fatepara Shri Devajibhai Govindbhai;Patil Shri Chandrakant Raghunath

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

a) whether the Government has received request/proposal from the State Government of Gujarat for paying compensation to Sabarmati Ashram Gaushala Trust towards the land acquired for the memorial of former Prime Minister, Late Shri Morarji Desai;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto including the reasons for delay if any, in taking action in this regard;

(c) whether the Government had constituted a Concept Committee to develop suitable memorial on the Samadhi of Late Shri Morarji Desai named as Abhay Ghat and if so, the details of the action taken thereon; and

(d) the action taken by the Government so far to acquire land for such memorial?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR CULTURE AND TOURISM

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 66 FOR 21st NOVEMBER, 2016.

(a) & (b) A proposal for payment of compensation towards cost of land was, for the first time, received in the Ministry in the year 2000 from the State Government of Gujarat and was examined by this Ministry. Since, the commemoration period of the birth centenary of Late Sh. Morarji Desai during 1996-1997 had already ended by then, the request of the State Government of Gujarat could not be acceded to by the Ministry of Culture.

(c) Yes, Madam. A concept committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Sabarmati Ashram Gaushala Trust, Ahmedabad was constituted on 23.02.1996 to develop suitable Memorial on the Samadhi of Late Shri Morarji Desai named as Abhay Ghat at Sabarmati, Ahmedabad as a part of commemoration of his birth centenary during 1996-1997.

(d) Sabarmati Ashram Gaushala Trust, Ahmedabad spared land measuring 7450 square meters for the purpose of the Samadhi of Late Shri Morarji Desai known as "Abhay Ghat" which is presently under the maintenance and possession of Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Government of India. The construction work started in July, 1997 and was completed in March, 1999 by CPWD.